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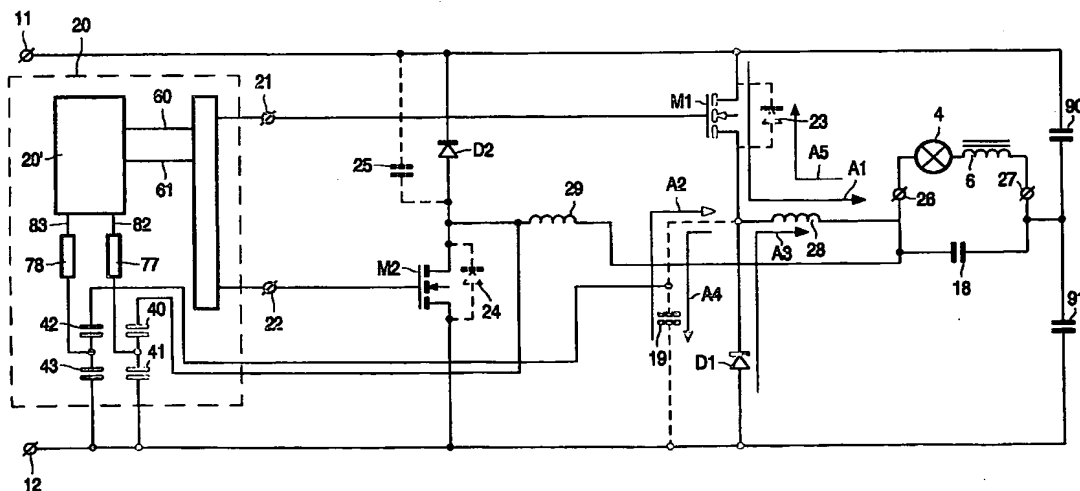
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(54) Title: CIRCUIT AND METHOD FOR DRIVING A LOAD, IN PARTICULAR A HIGH-INTENSITY DISCHARGE LAMP,
AND A CONTROL UNIT FOR SAID CIRCUIT



(57) Abstract: Circuit for driving a load, comprising: two input terminals for connection to a source of a supply voltage; a first and a second output terminal for connection to the load; at least one inductor coupled between one of the output terminals and a corresponding connection node; at least one arrangement comprising a switch coupled between one of said input terminals and one of said connection nodes, a diode being connected between said one connection node and the other input terminal; a control unit for controlling said one or more switches; wherein each arrangement and corresponding diode are designed to allow the voltage over the opened switch of said arrangement to return to substantially zero before said switch is closed, the control unit being designed to provide a signal for closing the switch when a substantially zero voltage over said opened switch is detected. Turning the switch on at a substantially zero voltage means that switching losses are greatly reduced, and this without complicating the circuit.